

# Walden Notes



Summer 2005

Newsletter of the Walden Chamber Players

Christof Huebner, Artistic Director

## From the Artistic Director

### Pay It Forward



The benefit of charitable giving . . . a worthy concept, certainly, but what does it actually mean when the rubber hits the road? Well, here is a nice example.

Rick C., one of our most recent contributors who owns a business on Cape Cod, had apparently posted our thank-you letter—sent in response to his generous support—in his store. Turns out that a customer who recently visited his store to look at the merchandise saw that letter and proceeded to tell Rick that he is a fan of WCP and would therefore be delighted to give him his business!

When things neatly fall into place like that we are of course doubly delighted. I think it is worth mentioning that, due to it's size, your support of WCP has a very direct and immediate impact on WCP's ability to present concerts, educational projects and the like. Your contribution won't get lost in the vast budget of a large organization

☛ continued page 2


## Celebrating the Spirit of Nantucket in Music, Poetry and Image . .

That was the "leitmotiv" for our concert on the island in June 2005. The occasion was the grand opening of the Nantucket Historical Association's (NHA) new Foulger Museum, a beautiful new facility which also happens to have very good acoustics. The concert, funded by a very generous anonymous sponsor, combined images of historic Nantucket with poetry and excerpts from log books from whaling ships, all framed by music of Haydn and Mozart.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Frank Milligan, Executive Director of the NHA, and his wife Chris Hart for their moving readings at the concert. Many thanks also to Mary Novissimo for her exquisite collage of slides from the NHA's vast collection. A very special mention needs to be made of Judy Wodynski, Director of External Relations of the NHA, who was an enthusiastic and inspiring collaborator in

putting this event together and who worked tirelessly to make it the success it was.

The reception by the audience was enthusiastic and everybody agreed that we needed to be back next summer at the museum—and so it shall be! Plans are underway for another concert

at the NHA's Foulger Museum in late May or early June 2006 and, in addition, to present some programs in collaboration with the NHA at the local high school. After all, who could possibly resist spending some more time on this fabulous island? 



Walden members (left to right) Alexander Velinzon, Irina Muresanu, violins; guest artists Fenwick Smith, flute and Rafi Popper-Keizer, cello; and artistic director Christof Huebner rehearsing for the multimedia opening event of the Nantucket Historical Association.



In this early view of Nantucket life, a group of men and women pose in a wagon. One man is holding a banjo and two of the women are holding watermelon halves. The happy group (left to right) are identified as Miss Chittenden, Mr. Mather, Mr. Bartlett, Miss Pickering (holding basket) and George B.

Image and poem courtesy of the Nantucket Historical Association

### Laugh Because I'm Free

Then I'll haste to wed a sailor, and send him off to sea for a life of independence, is the pleasant life for me. But every now and then I shall like to see his face, for it always seems to me to beam with manly grace, With his brow so nobly open, and his dark and kindly eyes, Oh my heart beats fondly towards him when ever he is nigh, But when he says, "Goodbye my love, I'm off across the sea," First I cry for his departure, then laugh because I'm free

*Nantucket Girls Song,  
Elliza Brock's Journal  
Aboard the Lexington, 1853-56*

# '05/06: Contemporary and Classic, Ying and Yang

**W**alden Chamber Players has always sought to balance the ying and the yang of its audience's musical life by introducing the work

## Season Preview

“Most people use music as a couch; they want to be pillowed on it, relaxed and consoled for the stress of daily living. But serious music was never meant to be soporific.”

– Aaron Copland

of contemporary composers while presenting the most interesting works in the classical repertoire. This season is no exception. Our exciting programming will feature an eclectic mix of composers and musical works!

We will highlight the work of a number of women composers such as Augusta Read Thomas, Jennifer Higdon, Sofia Gubaidulina and Clara Schumann, and we will also present the East Coast premieres of works by Gernot Wolfgang,

Other composers featured this year include Claude Debussy, Joseph and Michael Haydn, W.A. Mozart, Stephen Paulus, Gerhard Schedl, Arnold Schoenberg, Franz Schubert, Dmitri Shostakovich, Igor Stravinsky, Virgil Thomson, Harald Genzmer and Gerald Finzi.

As always, our concerts will feature a fanciful mix of repertoire, one of Walden's

hallmarks. We like the idea of juxtaposing compositional styles and musical and emotional content in our programs. This gives the audience an opportunity to make connections between composers, and to follow developments in style or compositional techniques. Often, contrasting works can also serve to highlight certain characteristics typical to a certain composer or even a whole period. Sometimes composers that seem to be at opposite ends of the musical spectrum can reveal themselves to have certain characteristics in common. The response of our audiences to this type of programming has over the years been overwhelmingly positive.

We will continue our outreach to schools and colleges through our multi-media, multi-discipline programs and residencies. Performances will be held in familiar venues such as James Library in Norwell, MA and the Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, MA, and in new ones such as the Austrian Cultural Forum in New York City, Tuckerman Hall in Worcester, MA, Friends of Chamber Music of Troy in Troy, NY and a possible performance at First Night Worcester.

Watch for our detailed season schedule and brochure which should arrive in your mailbox later this summer. Here are some of the scheduled performances:

- **WGBH**, Boston, MA; 10/03/2005: live broadcast
- **Plymouth State University**, Plymouth, NH; 10/06/2005: concert and outreach
- **Hudson Valley Music Club**, Dobbs Ferry, NY; 10/24/2005
- **James Library**, Norwell, MA; 11/6/2005
- **Massachusetts Academy of Math & Science**, Worcester, MA; 11/05 & 3/06
- **Austrian Cultural Forum**, New York City; 1/30/2006 & 2/1/2006
- **Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute**, Williamstown, MA; date tbd
- **Smith College**, Northampton, MA; 3/07-3/9/2006: residency with Augusta Read Thomas
- **Friends of Chamber Music**, Troy, NY; 3/26/06
- **Tuckerman Hall**, Worcester, MA; date tbd
- **Nantucket Historical Association**, Nantucket, MA; May/June 2006

### The Walden Quiz

The number 14 held considerable significance for Johann Sebastian Bach and he often used it in the process of composition. Why?

If you think you know the answer please call (866) 393-2927 and tell us. The first caller with the correct answer will receive one of our Walden Sampler CDs!

(The answer will be posted in our next newsletter.)

### Artistic Director continued —

and indeed can often make the difference between a project being able to be brought to fruition or not. Also, WCP's frequent collaboration with other art institutions makes your dollar go further by increasing our ability to reach new audiences and pool resources.

So, won't you make a contribution to WCP so that we can continue to give the gift of innovative and creative outreach programs and concerts to our delighted audiences? Thanks!

*Christof Huebner*

*Contributions can be sent to Walden Chamber Players, P.O. Box 382, Arlington, MA 02476. Walden Chamber Players is a 501C3 nonprofit organization and all contributions are fully deductible.*

## Destination: Worcester, Massachusetts

We really like this city, rich in history and current offerings and which doesn't always get the attention it deserves. In March WCP presented one of its most rewarding residencies ever at the Massachusetts Academy of Math & Science in Worcester, MA. The highlight of this four-day program was a customized curriculum in Elizabethan art complementing the school's humanities class. It featured Shakespearean sonnets, music from the Elizabethan period, as well as slides of paintings by artists of that age. This program was a very moving and dramatic part of the final concert, featuring the students of the Academy showcasing their talents in collaboration with the WCP. What a terrific and enthusiastic bunch of youngsters!

During a short brake in the activities at the Academy we even managed to wander on over to the Worcester Medical Center and perform some music for the patients at the hospital. We enjoyed the visit at least as much as the patients did!

Special thanks go to Robert Traver, Principal of the Massachusetts Academy of Math and Science, and Jo Farrell, the humanities teacher who worked tirelessly to make our visit such a success!

We are very excited to return to the Academy in an expanded residency next season which will have us at the school for two visits in November 2005 and March 2006. Our increased presence at the academy will allow us to really become part of the school community and will produce an even more fruitful and productive dialogue between the students of the Academy and the musicians of WCP. Each residency will culminate in a concert featuring the students in collaboration with WCP members.



Above, students and Walden Chamber Players musicians in concert at the "Brickyard", the Academy's performance space.



Left, a student rehearses with Walden members in preparation for the concert.

“The Chamber group created a customized curriculum in Elizabethan music and art to complement a Shakespeare unit in our humanities curriculum: Morely, Gibbons, sonnets, Tudor portraits on the big screen, lamp light—an exquisite synthesis of dramatic reading and music by Academy students and Walden Chamber musicians. Months later the parents and students in the audience are still applauding the evening, asking when there'll be more.”

— Robert Traver, Principal ,  
Massachusetts Academy  
of Math & Science

## Fallon Foundation Awards Grant to Walden

The Walden Chamber Players was recently awarded a grant by the Fallon Foundation in support of our efforts to broaden our reach in the Worcester area. This grant will make it possible for us to present programs in more schools and will also enable us to present a public concert at beautiful Tuckerman Hall. We are currently in the process of finalizing the dates for these programs. Watch for details later this summer.

### The Walden Chamber Players

Tatiana Dimitriadis - violin  
Alexander Velinzon - violin  
Irina Muresanu - violin  
Christof Huebner - viola  
Susannah Chapman - cello  
Lawrence Wolfe - bass  
Marianne Gedigian - flute  
Laura Ahlbeck - oboe  
Thomas Martin - clarinet  
Richard Ranti - bassoon  
Richard Sebring - horn  
Jonathan Bass - piano

### The Walden Chamber Players Board of Artistic Advisors

Imogen Cooper  
Federico Cortese  
Branford Marsalis  
Stephen Paulus  
Paul Polivnick  
Augusta Read Thomas

### Contact Us!

For more information about  
the Walden Chamber Players,  
contact us at 866/393-2927  
or visit us at  
[www.waldenchamberplayers.org](http://www.waldenchamberplayers.org).

## Taking Care of Business

Walden is very fortunate to have found an exceptional new business manager, **Kristine Gravina**. Kris comes to WCP with an impressive background of over 10 years of experience in international and corporate finance, internal auditing and tax compliance for such companies such as Gillette, Duracell and Teradyne.



A few years ago Kris started her own business providing clients with management services, allowing her to spend more time with her two young daughters.

Asked why she decided to add WCP to her already very busy schedule Kris said: "Music has always been a part of my life. So it is wonderful to take part in an organization that is providing music appreciation to so many in such a unique way. I am also impressed with the quality of the musical experience that the ensemble provides."

In the few months she has been with Walden, Kris has shown herself to be a tremendous asset on the business side of the organization. In addition, she is always at a Walden performance or fund raiser, helping out wherever needed.

Kris lives in Melrose with her daughters, and her husband Mark.

## News

### Moving up . . . and on

**Alexander Velinzon**, one of WCP's wonderful violinists and a member of the BSO violin section since 1999, was recently appointed



**Alex Velinzon**

assistant concertmaster of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Of course, we at Walden are all very proud of him! On another note, long-time WCP violinist **Nurit Bar-Josef**, currently concertmaster of the National Symphony in Washington, D.C., has decided that her duties in our nation's capital are just keeping her too busy in order to continue her association with WCP. We are grateful to her for her beautiful performances as a member of WCP and wish her the very best of luck for the future.

*Walden*  
Chamber Players

P.O. Box 382  
Arlington, MA 02476

*Music . . . the human experience  
translated into sound™*

Presorted Standard  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Boston, MA  
Permit No. 405

